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VICTORY WILL UNDO THE WEAK; DEFEAT WILL INSPIRE THE STRONG

Many splendid things have been said about victory.

The picture of the victor we see with our mind's eye is a triumphant and heroic figure, receiving the plaudits of the multitude. The picture of the vanquished is one of despair and dejection, with jeers for his effort and insufficient strength.

Too often we overlook the fact that victory may lead to ultimate defeat, and temporary defeat is but the preparation for a greater victory.

The disposition frequently is to overestimate the significance of victory and entirely lose sight of the value of defeat.

When the weak in strength of character, but powerful through strength of influence or other outside assistance, are victorious, they frequently become vain and pompous, and obsessed with their importance.

When the immature or those with undeveloped strength are by force of circumstances defeated, they merely utilize the experience for a greater trial and the achievement of a greater victory.

There are times when victory is the forerunner of defeat; times when defeat is the forerunner of victory.

Some persons are so constructed temperamentally that defeat marks their finish, and there are others for whom victory is merely an inspiration to greater tasks.

The man who can stand up under the responsibility of victory is making progress; he understands the philosophy of life.

The man who can rise again from the ashes of defeat is stronger for the experience, and on the highroad to victory.

The victor who can be generous with the vanquished is evenly balanced. The defeated who can weather his experience without becoming soured on the world will not always fail.

Every life is a round of defeats and disappointments. Everyone has had them. Some have succumbed to reverses, while others have overcome them.

No successful man has been successful in every enterprise. Many times the inspiration for greater effort came from temporary reverses. A man of that character makes use of defeat as a spur to greater achievement.

Time and infinite pains and a will to succeed are the prime requisites of everyone who would grow and expand, and fill a larger sphere of usefulness.

Carlyle once said that "genius is the art of taking pains." He might have been called a genius, but he knew that he was a painstaking, studious person.

Maupassant was a great writer because he took infinite pains. Balzac spent hours over a sentence.

Modern writers tell us that the hard work is the best work; that the production that flows freely and without the necessity for concentration and revision is usually the poorest, contrary to the general supposition that the novelist and short story writer produces under the spell of inspiration.

Not a painter ever won fame but he painted and painted; not a musician ever attained the heights of a master but he played and played unceasingly.

When we discuss victory and defeat, naturally our thoughts turn to war, and especially the recent war. It was a real victory for this country because it gave us a renewed and a revised formula of patriotism. It separated the loyal and the disloyal and marked one with the distinction that belongs to every worthy citizen, and branded the other with the mark of shame.

It gave us a new estimate of the things worth while; a new vision of our mission, and an outlook upon the world that we live in, and a sense of our responsibility for its peoples outside our own dominion.

Germany was crushed and battered, starved and torn to her foundations. The government went to pieces. It must have been a dreary day and a forbidding prospect for those unimaginative people.

But who can estimate the value of that defeat? What possibilities lie before the German under a government of which he is a part and in which he has a voice? How bitter would have been the fruit of victory. Defeat was the only salvation for them—if indeed, there is any.

Victory for this country and the associated governments was providential. It was the mission they were designated to perform. It brought to those nations, and especially to us, a new conception of the part we are expected to play among the governments of the world. It is a noble enterprise, but it is one that should bring us to face it with humility.

As Kipling has said:

For heathen heart that puts his trust
In reeking tube and iron shard,
All valiant dust that builds on dust,
And guarding call not Thee to guard,
For frantic boast and foolish word,
Thy mercy on Thy people, Lord.

GIVE THE DEMOCRATS REPRESENTATION ON BOARD

The regrettable death of Capt. J. M. Brackin, of Dyersburg, produced a vacancy on the state board of elections, of which he was chairman, and brings to attention the fact, so apparent in the recent election, that the Democracy of Shelby county is without representation.

The three members of the Shelby county board do not affiliate with the Democratic organization nor with the majority of the Democrats of the county. They represent a small and discordant noise with little strength at the polls.

It is hoped that the two remaining members of the state board, upon whom rests the responsibility of filling the vacancy until the legislative assemblies, will have the fairness to select a man, preferably a Memphisian, who will give the dominant party in Shelby county at least some representation. The state board should not pack the local election board against the Democrats of this county in municipal and county elections, and then expect them to furnish the votes necessary to overcome the Republican majority in East Tennessee in state elections.

